(c) The Government of India have formulated a Common Minimum Nar tional Action Plan for Power based on the consensus reached in the Chief Ministers' Conferences held on 16.10.1996 and 3.12.1996. The Action Plan has been circulated to all the State Governments for its implementation in a time bound manner. The Ac. lion Plan inter-alia provides for delegation of iBiore powers tb in State agencies, autonomy to the State Electricity Boards, improvement in management practices of State Electricity Boards, provision of higher alooations for public sector projects, emphasis on renovation and modernisation, improvement in plant load factor, private sector participation in distribution, encouragement of co-generation/captive power plants, development of mega power projects at mine pit heads, both in public and private sector, with transmission facilities for evacuation of power to other re-gions/States. The Ninth Plan whicsh is under- finalisation also proposes substantial investment in generation, transmission and distribution of power.

Hydel Power Policy

2112. SHRI CYAN RANJAN: Will tht Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Samghamoorthy Commi-tee' has given its recommendations for formulating a comprehensive policy on hydel;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) details of action taken thereon; and

(d) the present status of new Hydel Power Policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECH-NOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PO^ WER (SHRI YOGINDER K, ALAGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main recommendations Sambamurti Committee are:

(i) The Hydro potential which is concentrated in a few regions should be ressessed and txploited.

(ii) Public Sector should primarily undertake large and multi-purpose projects and private sector should concentrate on smaller projects.

(iii) Memorandum of Understanding route should be adopted in the case of complex hydro projects.

(iv) International Clompe4itivte bidi-din,g route should be adopted in the case of smaller and less complex prOL jects and based on unit power/energy cost.

Iv) Joint Ventures of Public Sector and Private Sector should be encouraged.

(vi) Additional incentives for hydro projects should be given so that return on hydro is made comparable to thermal projects.

(vii) Peaking power should be allowed additional returns.

(viii) Special emphas!is should be given to hydro potential in North East.

(ix) A Hydro Development Fimd should be created to find resources for public sector projects.

(c) and (d). Based on the recommen-dations made hy the Committee, a National policy on hydro power development will be evolved by the Central Government which inter-alia would include *Si*-velopment of mega hydro projects, both in the pubjic sector and the private see-to, at locations with substantial hydjjp potential.

Amendment of Indian Electricity Act

2113. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the Indian Electricity Act to faci-litate the private investment in power transmission/distribution etc;